

# REQUIREMENTS FOR CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION, K - 12 CERTIFICATE

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

*CERTIFICATE QUALIFIES THE HOLDER TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE MENTAL RETARDATION, EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY, ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS AND OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS. ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE MUST BE MET. FEES ARE NOT REFUNDABLE. PURSUANT TO A.R.S. 15-534.03, EACH EDUCATOR MUST NOTIFY THE CERTIFICATION DEPARTMENT OF ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS WITHIN 30 DAYS. ALL DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING TRANSCRIPTS, BECOMES THE PROPERTY OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED. REQUIREMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE FULLY REFERENCED IN THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.*

### ➤ PROVISIONAL CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

*The Provisional certificate is valid for 2 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 2 years.*

Requirements for the Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate are:

1. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
  2. Option A, B, or C:
    - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education from an accredited institution, which included courses in mental retardation, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments and other health impairments.
    - B. Forty-five (45) semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution to include 21 semester hours of special education courses and 8 semester hours of practicum with students representing at least 3 of the 5 disability areas of mental retardation, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments, and other health impairments.
      - Special education courses shall include: 1. Survey of exceptional students; 2. Teaching methodologies and strategies for students with disabilities; 3. Foundations course in mild to moderate mental retardation, learning disability, emotional disabilities and physical/other health impairment; 4. Diagnosis and assessment of mild disabilities; and 5. Electives in special education (if needed).
      - **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience in special education representing 3 of the 5 disability areas in grades K-12 may substitute for the 8 semester hours of practicum. (Please submit a letter on official letterhead from the District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify teaching experience.)
    - C. A valid Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate from another state.
  3. A passing score on the elementary professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
  4. A passing score on the cross-categorical special education portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment.
  5. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training. **Please see SEI requirements.** Note: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement. The requirements for a Provisional SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other applicable certification requirements.
  6. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.
- NOTE:** *If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).*
7. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).
  8. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

### ➤ STANDARD CROSS-CATEGORICAL SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

*The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and is renewable.*

Requirements for the Standard Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate are:

1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate for **2 years**.
2. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA). Currently, the assessment has not been developed. **Two (2) years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate may be used to **convert** the Provisional Certificate to a Standard Certificate. (Please submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **two years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the provisional certificate being converted.)
3. Verification of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training to qualify for a Provisional or Full SEI endorsement. **Please see SEI requirements.** Note: Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.
4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card (plastic) issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety (602) 223-2279.